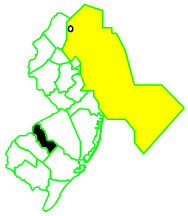
U.S. AVENUE BURN SITE

NEW JERSEY

EPA ID# NJ0001120799



EPA REGION 2
CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 1
Camden County
Borough of Gibbsboro

Site Description

The United States Avenue Burn Site is situated in the vicinity of United States Avenue in Gibbsboro, Camden County, New Jersey. The Site consists of three sources, the Burn Area, the Burn Landfill, and the Railroad Track, which are all currently vacant land. The White Sand Branch Stream and Haney Run Brook, which ultimately feed Bridgewood Lake, flow through the Burn and Landfill Areas of the United States Avenue Burn Site. The confluence of White Sand Branch and Haney Run Brook flows beneath United States Avenue and into Bridgewood Lake, and subsequently, Hilliard's Creek, also known as Millards Creek (hereinafter "Hilliard's Creek"). Hilliard's Creek flows through the Hilliard's Creek Wildlife Refuge. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service Wetlands Inventory Maps indicate that sensitive ecosystems in and around these water bodies include palustrine forest, palustrine emergent wetland and palustrine scrub/shrub areas. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Rate Maps indicate that the 100-year flood plain encompasses the Site. All of the surface waters in the vicinity of the Site have been designated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection as freshwater (FW-2). One potential designated use of FW-2 waterbodies is "public potable water supply after such treatment as required by law or regulation".

The Burn and Landfill Areas of the United States Avenue Burn Site occupy approximately 11.52 acres. The Railroad Track Area of the United States Avenue Burn Site encompasses approximately 24,000 square feet centered around the abandoned railroad track. An estimated 4,465 people live within a one mile radius of the Site. The closest residence to the United States Avenue Burn Site is approximately 200 feet north of the site.

The Burn Area portion of the United States Avenue Burn Site was previously used to dispose of paint wastes from a paint manufacturing facility (products included varnishes, lacquers, and paints, including dry colors, paste paints, and linseed oil liquid paints) and the burning of it at the Burn Area. The Burn Landfill portion of the Site was used for the storage of sludge from the former Sherwin-Williams Company paint manufacturing facility's wastewater treatment system. The Railroad Track portion of the Site, which is currently an abandoned railroad line, was previously used to transport materials to and from the paint manufacturing facility.

Site Responsibility: The site is currently being addressed through Federal action and potentially responsible party involvement.

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 09/29/98
Final Date: 07/22/99

Threats and Contaminants

Inorganic hazardous substances such as arsenic and lead were detected at concentrations significantly above background levels in surface water, soil and sediment sampled from the site. Groundwater sampling results at the site also indicated levels of lead and volatile organic compounds such as benzene, xylene and pentachlorophenol.

On July 25, 1995, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) issued an ATSDR Record of Activity (AROA) for the Burn Area of the Site. In the AROA, ATSDR concluded that soil and sediment at the site are contaminated with metals at concentrations that pose a public health hazard. Routes of exposure to site contaminants are by ingestion of contaminated soil or by inhalation of suspended dusts. Sediment sampling results also indicated that contaminants have migrated off-site and are present in sediment samples at levels of public health concern. Contact with these sediments poses an additional source of contaminant exposure.

On September 20, 1996, ATSDR concluded that the levels of lead in surface soil at the Railroad Track Area of the Site present a public health threat and recommended immediately preventing unauthorized access to the railroad track area .

Cleanup Approach

The site is being addressed in two stages: immediate actions and a long-term remedial phase focusing on the entire site.

Response Action Status

Immediate Actions: In September 1995, EPA entered into an Administrative Order on Consent with The Sherwin-Williams Company, a potentially responsible party, to conduct a removal action at the Burn Area of the Site. These actions included physically limiting with appropriate temporary barriers (silt fencing) the migration of contaminants into surface waters, adjusting the existing fence line to encompass the Burn Landfill portion of the Site, and also included sampling and surveying. On May 1, 1997, a Unilateral Administrative Order was issued to The Sherwin-Williams Company by EPA to conduct a removal action at the Railroad Track Area of the Site. These actions included the installation of silt fencing in conjunction with sampling and excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soils.

Entire Site: On September 30, 1999, EPA issued an AOC to The Sherwin-Williams Company to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The objective of the RI/FS is to determine the full nature and extent of contamination and any threat to the public health, welfare, or the environment caused by any release or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants in connection with the Site; and to determine and evaluate alternatives for the remediation or control of any release or threatened release in connection with the Site. EPA anticipates initiating the field sampling activities for the RI/FS in the fall of 2002.

Environmental Progress

By installing silt fencing and adjusting the existing fence line at the Burn and Landfill Areas of the Site, and conducting excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soils at the Railroad Track Area of the Site, EPA has reduced the short-term risks associated with exposure to the inorganic hazardous substances.